

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

----- 089985

R 281430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5599

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1306

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, YE, SA

SUBJECT: RECENT ACTIVITIES OF AL-AHMAR, ABU SHUWARIB AND ABU  
LUHUMS

1. DURING MAY 28 DINNER, FONMIN AL-ASNAG TOLD ME THAT AL-AHMAR  
RETURNED FROM AL-HAJJA ON MAY 26 AFTER HAVING GONE THERE IN  
OBSENSIBLE EFFORT TO PERSUADE ABU SHUWARIB TO BEHAVE.  
AL-ASNAG SAID THAT SO FAR NO ONE KNOWS WHAT ABU SHUWARIB  
INTENDS TO DO, BUT AHAMR HAS BEEN UNEQUIVOCALLY TOLD BY PRESIDENT  
HAMDI THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ABU SHUWARIB'S BEHAVIOR. MOREOVER,  
WHEN AL-AHMAR WAS IN RIYADH HE WAS ALSO INFORMED BY THE SAUDIS  
TO ADVISE ABU SHUWARIB TO "RETIRE" FROM THE ARMY AND TAKE A  
"LONG TRIP", THE EXPENSES OF WHICH THE SAUDIS WOULD BE PREPARED  
TO COVER.

2. MEANWHILE, LTC DIRHAM ABU LUHUM LEFT FOR CAIRO ON  
MAY 25 TO ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES AS YEMENI MILITARY ATTACHE.  
ALI ABU LUHUM HAS BEEN IN DAMASCUS FOR ALMOST TWO  
WEEKS IN HIS CAPACITY AS AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA. MOHAMMAD  
ABU LUHUM IS LYING LOW IN HIS HOUSE IN SANA WHILE  
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THEIR OLDER BROTHER SINAN ABU LUHUM CONTINUES TO REAMIN IN

NEHM, THE FAMILY ANCESTRAL SEAT.

3. AL-ASNAG COMMENTED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE MOMENT FOR AL-AHMAR AND ABU SHUWARIB TO ACT AGAINST AL-HAMDI HAS NOW PASSED AND HAMDI'S STRENGTH GROWS FROM DAY TO DAY. EVERY REPORT INDICATES THAT HAMDI IS ENJOYING WIDESPREAD POPULARITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BOTH FOR HIS RECENT MOVES AGAINST THE ABU SHUWARIB/ABU LUHUM FACTION AS WELL AS FOR HIS PROMISES TO SPEED UP THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. AL-ASNAG OBSERVED THAT IN THIS LATTER REGARD IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAUDIS AND AMERICANS AND OTHER ARAB FRIENDS OF YEMEN TO WORK QUICKLY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE YEMENI PEOPLE THAT YEMEN'S RELATIONS WITH THEM WILL NOW RESULT IN TANGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: EVERYTHING WE ARE HEARING CORROBORATES AL-ASNAG'S BELIEF THAT AL-AHMAR AND ABU SHUWARIB HAVE LOST THE INITIATIVE TO MOVE AGAINST AL-HAMDI. IT NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT UNDER HAMDI CAN FULFILL SOME OF ITS PROMISES TO THE YEMENIS FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP PACE WITH THEIR RISING EXPECTATIONS.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL LEADERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SANAA01306  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750186-0758  
**From:** SANAA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750513/aaaaalix.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RECENT ACTIVITIES OF AL-AHMAR, ABU SHUWARIB AND ABU LUHUMS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, YE, SA, (AL-AHMAR), (SHUWARIB, ABU), (LUHUM, ABU), (AL-ASNAG, ABDULLAH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006